Dear Fogsians,

Greetings to one and all

The FOGSI-FIFO connection newsletter will come to you all with news from FIGO, every 4 months.

India (FOGSI) has a huge role in FIGO.

a) We are the largest member body of FIGO

b) We have a President elect from next FIGO session

c) India is probably the only country which has given 3 FIGO Presidents

d) A lot of our members figure in important FIGO committees

e) FOGSI has done great work in the Adolescent health activities of FIGO

f) Many many more laurels in FIGO to FOGSI read ahead for details...

Dr. Narendra Malhotra
Representative of FOGSI to FIGO
n.malhotra@rainbowhospitals.org

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MASSAGE FROM FIGO PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues

It has been over six months since I took office as President of this prestigious organisation. A great deal has been achieved by each and every one of you, both as individuals and as members of your respective national societies. Over the years you have striven hard to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and to improve women's health. My sincere thanks for your ongoing efforts. The past FIGO Presidents, Officers, Executive Board members, Chief Executive, Administrative Director and staff have all worked alongside you on these goals. You can certainly expect the same commitment from the new Officers, Board and staff. There is, naturally, much more to do to help achieve women's rights and health.

Working with valuable partners

We need to continue to work together with various like-minded organisations, such as our national societies and Regional Federations, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Paediatric Association (IPA) and many, many others. For example, we wanted to have a strong relationship with various United Nations organisations: now we have a UN representative on each of our FIGO Committees. This will ensure timely alignment of aims and activities, and a strong link at both HQ and 'on the ground' levels.

Education and training: a FIGO cornerstone

Our swift progress with FIGO activities in education and training has been achieved to a great extent under Past-President, Professor Gamal Serour’s expert leadership through the FIGO Committee for Capacity Building in Education and Training, chaired by Professor Luis Cabero-Roura. Two major FIGO Regional Conferences will be held in 2013: Cartagena, Columbia, from 1-4 May 2013, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2-5 October 2013 (see page nine for details). FIGO will also participate in a FOGSI-FIGO International Conference on ‘Recent Advances in OBGYN’ in Hyderabad, India, in September. FIGO has also continued its ongoing collaboration with Olympus Surgical Technologies on Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Workshops, the most recent one being held in Khartoum, Sudan, in February.

More generally, the Committee has provided educational sessions in a number of national and subject-specific conferences. One such session at the 56th All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AIICOG; January 2013), organised by the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), was a great success. It was a staggering 8000 participants. My sincere congratulations to the outgoing and incoming Presidents, Professors P K Shah and Hema Divakar. FOGSI has a major role to play in improving all aspects of Women’s health. The past presidents, office bearers and committees have done extremely well and I feel proud of their achievements and FOGSIANs. FIGO should benefit from the experience of FOGSI. In addition to the President elect we have FOGSI members contributing to the FIGO oncology, save the mothers and new born, ethics and scientific programme committee. FOGSI has done wonderfully well with the FIGO logic project and generated an electronic maternal death review format and are working on serious or near miss morbidity audits. These tools would be greatly beneficial for India and several other countries.

In March, Professor Cabero-Roura and I attended the 7th International DIP Symposium on ‘Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome, and Pregnancy’ in Florence, Italy - a FIGO Pre-Congress Workshop, organised in collaboration with the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), was attended by over 200 delegates. Obstetricians and gynecologists have a major role to play in reducing obesity and diabetes, and their consequences. Maternal nutrition, pre-term birth, intrauterine growth restriction, immediate breast-feeding and the infant childhood period are some of the factors that determine the final outcome. Early influences at gametogenesis and early development may promote epigenetic changes that may have a major impact on NCDs. The first 1,000 days from conception appear to be the key in reducing this epidemic, compared with our efforts to reduce the ‘5 Ss’ in adult life (‘salt, sugar, saturated fatty acids, sedentary life and spirits in excess’). FOGSI should progress this agenda as it is a major epidemic. This can be done by linking up with governments, midwives, paediatricians and public health physicians.

Web-based ‘knowledge transfer’

In this highly sophisticated age of technology - eg mobile phones, tablets, computers - we should be able to provide obstetricians, gynecologists and health professionals with education anywhere, and at any time, through books, images, videos and master classes. Not every professional has adequate access to this. To counter this, FIGO has signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ‘Global Library of Women’s Medicine’ (GLOWM – www.glowm.com), founded by Paula and David Bloomer, making GLOWM its educational platform and helping provide content with the input of FIGO Committees and experts from various national societies. I have now assumed the position of Editor in Chief (my thanks to former Editor in Chief Professor Jack Sciarra, FIGO Past-President, for his able leadership), and will work with the GLOWM editorial team to bring you the latest in evidence-based practice. Please use this excellent educational platform and recommend it to others (more detail can be found in the Chief Executive’s report on page three).

Transfer of skills

FIGO is currently exploring a joint collaboration with Professor Harshad Sanghvi, from Jhpiego, and Mr Tore Laerdal, Chairman of the Laerdal Foundation, on the enhancement of teaching and training in life-saving skills. Through a specific programme of ‘Buy one – Donate one’, they have agreed to donate a large number of ‘MamaNatalie’® birth simulators - FIGO will explore how best to deploy them in teaching centres so that they are constantly used to benefit healthcare workers, medical and midwifery students, and professionals. They will also assist with funding to organise Pre-Congress Workshops on essential obstetric functions, principally on prevention and treatment of post-partum haemorrhage and helping babies breathe. The first such Workshop has been funded and will be held before the first FIGO African Regional Conference in Ethiopia, October 2013.

Clinical fellowships

FIGO has also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wellbeing of Women, a leading charity in the UK.
promoting women’s health by funding research and educational fellowships. Annually, WOW gives several fellowships to doctors, midwives and medical students to do research, travel abroad to centres of excellence, and gain clinical experience - it has now agreed to work with FIGO to provide some fellowships to enable doctors to come from outside the country to the UK to gain experience for a limited period of time. We look forward to fruitful collaboration on this, and other, activities.

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Recognition and celebration
International Women’s Day, World Health Day, and the International Day of the Midwife have all recently taken place; FIGO is always keenly supportive of these important global enterprises, and I am grateful to Alexandra Gilpin, our communications contact, for assisting with the issuing of FIGO statements (available on www.figo.org/news/statements).

The ‘Women Deliver’ (WD) conference is an important event taking place in Kuala Lumpur from 28-30 May 2013, under the phenomenal leadership of WD founder Jill Sheffield. This conference attracts a substantial global mix of policymakers, health administrators, healthcare professionals and women’s advocates. FIGO will be attending, and will also participate in the special second Global Midwifery Symposium - taking place prior to it, organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and partners. I encourage you all to attend WD, and contribute to its important objectives.

World Congress 2015
Preparations have started in earnest for FIGO’s next World Congress, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 4-9 October 2015. The 2012 Rome Congress was an enormous success, and I have no doubt that 2015 will also exceed expectations. Dr Abdul Aziz Yahya, Chair of the Congress Organising Committee, will work closely with Professor Joanna Cain, Scientific Programme Committee Chair, and Dr Mark Heywood, Chair of the Canadian Local Organising Committee and his team. Marta Collins, FIGO’s Events and Meetings Manager, will liaise with FIGO’s Chief Executive, Professor Hamid Rushwan, and Administrative Director, Bryan Thomas. The Lord Patel has agreed to be our adviser, and we will certainly benefit from his vast knowledge, experience and wisdom. Please keep the dates firmly reserved in your diary, as we would like to see as many colleagues as possible there.

FIGO ‘on the ground’
FIGO Initiatives continue apace, as you will see from the updates within this Newsletter. It is most important that FIGO is active at the ‘grassroots’ level in as many countries as possible, working collaboratively with national societies. This is the priority, and we continue to explore additional opportunities to enhance our activities.

Officers’ Meeting, February 2013
The new Officers’ group had a stimulating and challenging meeting held over two days in early February. Everyone brought in new ideas to enhance FIGO activities: Professor C N Parandare, President-Elect, on improving our income; Professor Ernesto Castelazo Morales, Vice-President, on closer interaction with national societies; Professor Gian Carlo Di Renzo, Honorary Secretary, on the importance of our expert Committees issuing good practice guidelines; Professor Wolfgang Holzgreve, Honorary Treasurer, on the revenues and matters related to the publication of FIGO’s journal, the International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics (IJGO); and Professor Gamal Serour, Past-President, on the Alliance for Women’s Health, and other partnership activities. These were well received and the resultant proposals will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval and action when it meets in London in mid-June.

Committee Chairs and members were also finalised at the meeting, with care taken to ensure appropriate geographical and gender representation. In future Newsletter issues, we will carry more in-depth reporting on Committee and Working Group activities. All these specialist FIGO bodies - ably co-ordinated by Marie-Christine Sztaybeko, FIGO’s Senior Administrator and Committee Manager - will regularly keep us in the picture on their myriad of activities, and bring us up to speed with the latest developments in the different spheres of our discipline.

I wish you a happy and productive year.

Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran
FIGO President

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

FOGSI FIGO...working together to do what works

FOGSI very much forward to the opportunity to work in collaboration with FIGO.

The vision mission of FOGSI, a crucial member of the FIGO, reflects the vital role health professional organizations play in the promotion of women’s health and in global efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 to reduce child and maternal mortality specifically—but not only, as most of the MDGs have an impact on women’s health.

“Professional organizations can do a tremendous amount in this respect, from influencing policy decision-making to raising awareness of issues and their solutions, to setting standards, to educating and training healthcare professionals and providers,” declared Professor Gamal Serour, outgoing President of FIGO.

FOGSI has 212 member societies and 27,000 members all over India. It undertakes important educational, publication, and advocacy activities. FOGSI expresses its support and keen intent to collaborate with FIGO in implementing innovations that work for developing countries. We have to deliver the interventions. However, we have to innovate the way we deliver and test them rigorously. We definitely will be behind for several more years.

“INNOVATION TO IMPLEMENTATION” is the theme for FOGSI 2013 and marks the new beginning of the mission for making a positive impact to Women’s Healthcare in India. We acknowledge and appreciate that joining hands with partners like FIGO enhances our strength. We believe we will be the catalyst for the change we want to see in Women’s Health Care in India.

We resolve to do bit as “Change Makers”

Sincerely,

Dr. Hema Divakar
President FOGSI

Prof. C. N. Purandare

Dear FOGSIANS,

My personal greetings from FIGO. I am pleased to see Dr. Narendra Malhotra bring out the issue of FIGO connect and I understand it will be circulated to all the members of FOGSI.

All these years I have wondered what would be the best way to involve our individual member of FOGSI which has the strength of over 20,000 members to be part of FIGO activities.

FOGSI incidentally from this year will have adequate presence in the committees of FIGO which will help highlighting and improving the lives of millions of women treated in our part of the world.

The leadership of Sir Sabaraznam Anilkumaran, President FIGO, I am sure will strengthen FIGO as an organization and also bring you all closer to FIGO.

FOGSI is organizing a FOGSI FIGO conference on “Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology” from 13th to 15th September 2013 in Hyderabad at the Novotel Convention Centre, which will be a treat with a galaxy of speakers from FIGO attending it making it a mini FIGO congress. I hope all of you will make an effort to attend and upgrade your knowledge.

With your good wishes and blessings, I will take over as President of FOGSI in Vancouver, Canada, in October 2015, and would like to see the Indian contingent as one of the largest ever.

With personal regards,

Prof. C. N. Purandare

MD, MA Obst (RL), DGO, DPE, DObst FCPI (Dublin), FRCOG (UK), FICOG, FCIMCH, PGCMLS (Law)

Consultant, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

President Elect FIGO

President, FOGSI (2009),

President Indian College of OB GYN (2009)

Dean Indian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Editor in Chief, Journal FOGSI

Project Director, FOGSI FIGO-B&MGF-MNH Project,

Ex-Hon. Prof. OB GYN, Grant Medical College & JJ Hospital, Mumbai.

Hon. Consultant, Mumbai Police and Indian Armed Forces,

Hon. Consultant, Sai Dee Hospital & EES Hospital, Mumbai.

Visiting Consultant St. Elizabeth Hospital, Mumbai.

Narendra Malhotra

FOGSI’s Representative to FIGO

Member Fetal Medicine Committee
FOGSANS AT ROME
suffering sexual abuse and domestic violence, every minute of the day somewhere in this world, we as primary care physicians to women, really need to do much more!

I come from the land of Gandhi who said, “Nearly everything you do, may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it! You rmay never know the result of your actions, but if you do nothing there will be no result!” Hence it is so important for us to take that first step and create a legacy, which does not end with the positions we occupy, but goes beyond our own lives.

Thank you FIGO for giving us the opportunity to develop beautiful relationships and weave partnerships. Thank you for this excitement in our lives, which will propel us with the wind beneath our wings, to soar high towards our precise destination of improving women's lives!

Thank you FOGSI, my parent Organization for giving me the opportunity and the strength to achieve whatever I could. There are hundreds of Fogsians present here today, this award is for all of us who have worked together shoulder to shoulder, which I am accepting on behalf of all of us!

And last but not the least, a special thanks to my family before marriage who educated and empowered me and to my family after marriage i.e. My husband Sushil and my beautiful daughters Aparna and Ameera, who gave up their time with me, so that I could make a difference to someone else’s lives!

Ladies and Gentlemen, we thank all of you for being with us today to share our joy, and our determination to make a difference.

= Duru Shah

SAFOG AGRA 2013
The 56th AICOG the annual congress of the Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India was organized in Mumbai from January 16 to 20, 2013. With over 11000 delegates this was the largest ever conference of our specialty in India. The scientific program was conducted in seven theme based halls over three days.

As is the annual tradition the AICOG hosted as part of the scientific program international sessions in partnership with FIGO, AOFOG, SAFOG and RCOG. This year these sessions were also theme based and planned in partnership scientific committee. This ensured that the sessions were delegate centric and aimed at the practicing clinician by addressing issues related to daily clinical practice. The FIGO session was titled FIGO Guidance in Clinical Practice and was formatted jointly by Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, President, FIGO, Prof Luis Cabero, Chair of the Education and Capacity Building committee, FIGO and Dr. Nozer Sheriar, Chair, Scientific Committee, 56th AICOG.

The FIGO session was held in the Dr. VN Shirodkar Hall and was chaired by Dr. Hema Divakar, President, FOGSI, Dr. Nozer Sheriar, Secretary General, FOGSI and Dr. Nazendra Malhotra, Representative of FOGSI to FIGO. In this session Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, President, FIGO spoke on FIGO Guidelines on Management of the Second Stage of Labor, Prof CN Purandare, President Elect, FIGO spoke on FIGO Guidelines on Prevention and Management of PPH and Prof Siladitya Bhattacharya spoke on the FIGO Fertility Tool Box.

The session was conducted in a hall that had delegates standing in the aisles as over 550 delegates attended this very informative and interactive session. While looking forward to such sessions at AICOGs, FOGSI believes that such sessions would be an excellent modality for FIGO to reach out to member associations at their national conferences.
FOGSIANS AWARDED AT FIGO-ROME 2012

Dr. Duru Shah
MD FRCOG FCPS FICS FICOG DGO DFP (Member)

Dr. Duru Shah has been in clinical practice since 1981. She has been a guide for postgraduate students in Obs. Gyn. for Doctorate of Medicine, Mumbai University and for the Diplomate of National Boards, India. A renowned Past Prof. of Obs. & Gyn. Mumbai University, India, her interest covers Infertility, Menopause and Reproductive Endocrinology. She has also been deeply involved in promoting women's health in India.

Dr. Duru Shah is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Indian College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ICOG) which is the academic arm of the Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI). She has been the President of FOGSI, which is a 25000 strong professional body of Gynecologists, affiliated to the International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics (FIGO). At present, she represents FOGSI at FIGO, is a member of the Ethics Committee of FIGO, and a Member of the Technical Advisory Committee of FOGSI to Government of India for “Maternal Mortality”.

Dr. Duru Shah has been involved in the field of academics and has more than 100 publications to her credit. She has initiated many Educational programs such as the “Satellite School” at FOGSI, the Post Graduate Review Course at ICOG, and the Post Graduate Quiz at the Indian Menopause Society. She has been responsible for creating Collaborative Exchange Programs between IMS- India and British Menopause Society and between FOGSI with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists.

She is a Peer Reviewer for many journals, besides the Indian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of FOGSI. She is also on the Editorial Board of the “Climacteric” and the “TOG” of the Royal College of Obs. & Gyn. and “Menopause International” of the British Menopause Society.

Dr. Shah has been the proud recipient of many Awards and Orations, the most prominent being the “Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynecology” conferred on her in November 2008 in London and the “Henry Burger Oration” which was conferred on her at the Asia Pacific Menopause Federation conference held at Sydney in 2010. She was the first India recipient of the “Distinguished Merit Award” by FIGO, which was formally awarded at the Opening Ceremony at FIGO conference held in Rome in October 2012.

Dr. Kamini Rao
President of the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction during the years 2006 to 2008 and of the Federation of Obstetric & Gynecological Societies of India in the year 2000, Dr. Kamini Rao is a pioneer of the Assisted Reproduction fraternity in India. She is the Founder Director of Milann – The Fertility Center formerly known as BACC, which has an ongoing IVF program and a success rate comparable worldwide.

Dr. Kamini Rao is the Editor in Chief of two prestigious indexed journals – The Journal of Human Reproductive Sciences and the International Journal of Infertility & Fetal Medicine. Dr.Kamini Rao is academically oriented and has authored over thirty books of which “The Infertility Manual”, “The Laboratory Manual of ART”, “The Andrology Manual” and “Endoscopy in Infertility” are aimed at superspecialists and are hugely popular. She has brought out a number of books targeting students the prominent among them being the “Under Graduate textbook of Obs. & Gyn.” as well as books aimed at the General Practitioner like “Before She Conceives” one of a series of five books dealing with Pregnancy, the others being “Maternal Nutrition”, “A Guide to A Healthy Pregnancy”, “Postpartum Weight Loss” and “Breast Feeding – Current Concepts”.

Keeping in mind her long standing work in the field of Infertility she has been invited by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to serve as a Member of the National Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology to review and monitor the implementation of the national ART guidelines and advise the Central Government on all policy matters regarding the same. She is also a member of the National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research & Therapy instituted by Indian Council of Medical research and the Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India.

Dr. Kamini Rao has been the recipient of a number of Awards including the prestigious Karnataka State Award (Rajyotsava Award), the Vidya Ratan National Award, the Swastha Bharat Samman Award and the Medscape India National Award of excellence. She has been recognized on Google as one of the top ten Indian Doctors for her strong commitment to improving the health and status of women in India and for putting assisted reproductive technology on the medical map of India.
FIGO participation on ARSH during Adolescent Health Committee workshop AICOG 2013 Mumbai

The Adolescent Health FOGSI Committee workshop was held on 17th January 2013 at the Trident Hotel, Bandra (E) Mumbai during the AICOG 2013 which was a great success with good number of participants involved.

The scientific session was chaired by Professor Dr. Alka Kriplani, HOD AIIMS Delhi & Professor Dr. Walker, Senior Vice President of the RCOG, UK.

Due to an important FIGO commitment Prof. Hamid Rushwan Chief Executive FIGO could not come for the workshop but he was kind enough to share his presentation which was well covered by Professor Dr. C.N.Purandare, President Elect FIGO talked in detail on the topic of “Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Global views”

Professor Dr. Lesly Regan, FIGO Committee on Women’s Sexual & Reproductive Rights, spoke on the topic of “Adolescent health issues in UK, the need for prevention and life skills approach to women’s health”

The Adolescence magazine issue 08 was released in presence of the invited guest speakers & faculty members by Dr. Narendra Malhotra past president FOGSI & FIGO representative who praised the work done by the committee & encouraged the members for their continued good efforts.

At the end, Dr. Roza Olyai, Vice President Elect FOGSI 2014, shared overview of the Adolescent Health committee FOGSI activities of which she has been the chairperson since 2009 till date. This was followed by a special award ceremony for the advisors & members of the committee. Special thanks were given to Dr. Hamid Rushwan Chief Executive FIGO & Dr. Arulkumaran President FIGO under whose guidance the Adolescent Health committee FOGSI was doing its projects.

The program ended by high tea.

=Roza Olyai

India plays role model for “Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Care” during the XX FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics-ROME 2012 Dr. Roza Olyai Chairperson Adolescent Health Committee FOGSI had been nominated by FIGO to speak during the FIGO World Congress which was held in Rome between 7th and 12th October 2012. She represented FIGO during the WHO session on Addressing adolescents in the context of preconception care-What is currently being done in this area in high, middle and low income countries with special emphasis on the work currently being done in India by her. Samples of the CD, book materials & the Adolescence Magazine published by her since 2009 was shared amongst the delegates during the session, was well appreciated by everyone. Adolescent Health Committee FOGSI will be collaborating with other countries towards ARSH. Dr. Roza Olyai was also invited to participate in the workshop organized by the FIGO working Committee on Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights. This interactive workshop was to understand as to how FIGO proposes to “Integrate the teaching of Human Rights and Women’s Health in to educational and clinical practice”. There were few other selective participants months to have such more workshops country wise to spread the message
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